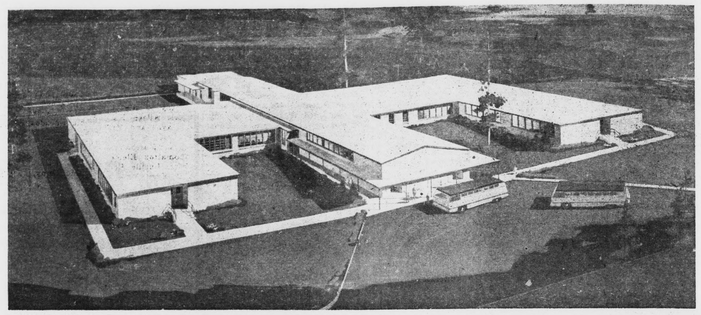
No. 58 of a Series . . .

American Education Week



A Salute to Appomattox County Teachers & Students!

We salute the schools of Appomattox County, as the nation observes American Education Week. There are 88 teachers and over 2,000 students in Appomattox County, and they contribute to the cultural and economic life of the community.

During recent years great strides have been made in the physical plants of our schools. On this page is shown the splendid New Elementary School at Appomattox, of which the county is justly proud. It is one of the most modern and complete in the state, and is under the care of an excellent corps of instructors. But, also, the community points with pride to the addition of a physical education room at Appomattox High School, and to the virtually new up-to-date plant at Carver - Price High and Elementary School. These plants represent an investment of about one million dollars, and show that the taxpayers are willing to sacrifice to bring educational opportunity to all of the children of the county.

However, schools are more than buildings, and we salute the officials, supervisors and teachers who are guided by a spirit of service and sincere ideals to indoctrinate our youth in the noble uses of opportunity. Ranking with the home and the church, the school can enhance the well-being of society.

In a way, it has been but a short while since the year 1870, when the public school system was established. But, from a modest beginning, a great educational system has grown. The problems besetting the officials and teachers and students are many, but when one looks back upon what has been accomplished, one feels that the future holds promise of further achievement.

There is something the friend of education can do. That is to show an interest in the school . . . encourage the young generation in applying itself diligently to take advantage of its great opportunities . . to visit the classrooms when convenient . . to join a Parent - Teacher Association . . to uphold the efforts of the teachers . . and above all to take pride in American Education. This week, all over this great nation, an effort is being made to focus attention upon our schools. You have an interest in education, whether you are a parent or not . . because the ever-challenging goal of democracy is a high standard of civilization. Education points youth to the "open road." Its problems will never cease, but the very nature of education is to call forth our best thinking to solve the problems of each generation.

We here in Appomattox who are in business, are happy to welcome students and teachers and to render them every possible service. In order to keep "Appomattox a Growing Town" it is necessary to train the citizens of tomorrow, to offer them jobs and opportunity upon graduation and inspire them to carry on the best traditions of the past and the present. We think American Education Week is an important event.

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...tional Education Week Is Being Observed Here

...OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS ...POMATTOX COUNTY

...blic school system in Virginia Appomattox County ...ginning in 1870, 85 years

...870, people with means ...ons and daughters to pri... ...ols in the history of Ap... County, the most famous ...private schools was the ...demy at Old Appomattox ...ion, established just be... ...outbreak of the War Be... States.

...ion so provision for edu... ...ldren of the tenant farm... ...others of limited incomes ...ld not afford the cost of ...se these private schools. ...in the elementary sub... ...ding, writing and arith... ...thus available only to a ...group.

...1905, with the closing of ...Academy, private school... ...continued usually in the ...home and still restricted ...children of parents who ...ir sons and daughters to ...basic three R's and had ...to pay the tuition.

...day today the principle ...children shall have an op... ...for schooling paid for from public taxes. In 1870, this innovation met with considerable opposition. Good judgment finally prevaield and the County Public School System was begun on a very modest scale.

The first public school in this county was located in a log cabin near the Old Court House. The first teacher in the public school system was J. H. Featherston.

The first County Superintendent of Schools was C. H. Chilton, 1870-1881. He was succeeded by J. B. Bristow, who continued in office until 1885.

Mr. Chilton returned to office in that year and served until 1897.

Sucessors in office were: J. K. Hannah, 1897-1913; N. R. Featherston, 1913-1926; and J. A. Burke, 1926 to date.

The first public school house built with county funds was erected at Hurtsville. Other school structures were added as fast as funds from school taxes made these accomodations possible.

Mr. N. R. Featherston, in his history of Appomattox County, reports that the school term in the eariy days of the system was five months. Teacher's average monthly salary was $25.00.

In 1908, Professor Lindsay Crawley was apointed principal of the high school at Appomattox. The frame building housing the high school stood on the lot where the present T. W. Moses residence is located. There were three teachers and 160 students. Funds allocated by the legislature in this year, with matching donations by private citizens, financed the building of a new high school at the present site. Appomattox High School opened in September, 1909, with the imposing name of Tenth Congressional District High School.

Our public school system has made great advances in the years since 1909. In the past ten years alone, we have seen the construction of a new and up-to-date agricultural vocational building at the high school; addition of a new gymnasium; construction of the Carver-Price High School and elementary school for Negroes, and the building of the new elementary school in the town of Appomattox.

For the current session, total enrollment in county public schools is 2,300 pupils, with 93 teachers.

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WHAT PRICE EDUCATION?

By Dr. Aubrey M. Keesee
Director of Education

During American Education Week we turn our thoughts and attention toward past achievements and urgent demands in the field of education. Virgil, the Roman poet, said, "what greater or better gift; can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth." If all citizens of the United States had agreed with Virgil the development of education would have been different.

Since informed intelligence is the basis of all democartic law and order, increased attention must be given to education as a path to settling current problems and promoting world peace. The UNESCO, a division of United Nations, has released some startling figures on the educational status of the world. We are concerned with those pertaining to our country. The per cent of illiterate people in the United States is 4.3%. This is good when we compare figures with Turkey and Palestine, which are above 70% But the United States does not show up so well when we look at Sweden with 0.1% and Canada with 3.8%. Sometime ago a publication of the National Education Association made the following significant statement:

Of the adults twenty-five years of age or over, 3 million have never gone to school at all; 13% have not completed the fourth grade; 56% have only an eighth-grade education or less; 75% have not completed high school.

Why does this condition exist in the most enlightened country in the world?

The way we spend our money may answer that question. The following statistics for the United States in 1950 are rather revealing:

$21,500,000,000 for gambling
$15,000,000,000 for crime
$8,550,000,000 for alcoholic beverages
$7,500,000,000 for accidents
$6,600,000,000 for education
$1,511,000,000 for church contributions
$500,000,000 for commercialized vice.

What effect can education have on these statistics? The American people spent, for crims and gambling, about six times the amount spent on education. These figures deal only in dollars and cents cost. The social costs are vitally greater with respect to crime, vice, drink and gambling. With these facts and figures before us can we afford not to do a better job in education?

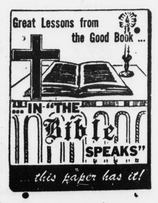
FACTS AND FIGURES IN EDUCATION

The following enrollment figures were furnished by Dr. Aubrey M. Keesee:

WHITE	
Evergreen	45
Pamplin	157
Oakville	119
Spout Spring	68
Vera	71
Appomattox Elementary	510
Total Elementary	970
Appomattox High School	464
Total for Whites	1434
NEGRO	
Canaan	26
Mt. Airy	38
Roadside	15
Spout Spring	42
Stonewall	50
Carver-Price Eelmentary	296
Carver-Price High School	145
Total for Negroes	612
Grand Total	2,046

There are 60 white teachers and 28 Negro teachers, in addition to the following:

County Supervisor - Dr. Aubrey M. Keesee
Visiting Teacher - Mrs. Mildred O'B. Alvis
County Librarian - Mrs. Nelwyn O'B. Smith
Assistant County Librarian - Miss Gertrude S. Ranson.



PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT BY OUR TEACHERS

Appomattox is fortunate in attracting teachers who are willing to spend their summers and their spare time during the school year in taking courses to improve their professional standing.

Mr. H. E. Kerr, principal of Appomattox High School, received his Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia this summer.

Mrs. H. E. Kerr, English and History (8th grade) received her B. S. degree. Miss Mamie Cullop, 5th grade, Appomattox Elementary School, also received her B. S. degree. Both these degrees are from Lynchburg College.

In addition to the three mentioned above, Mrs. Nellie Walton (Oakville), Mr. Earl Smith, principal, Pamplin, and Mrs. Pearle Lucado, of Pamplin, Mrs. Harriette Cunningham and Mrs. H. A. Gurney attended Longwood College this summer.

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Gurney are working on their Masters Degree, and are also taking courses at Longwood this fall.

An extension course in U. S. History offered by the University of Virginia and taught by Dr. Ferguson, meets every Tuesday, and is attended by:

Mrs. Lucie B. Staples and Mrs. Dorothy L. Blythe, of Evergreen;
Mrs. Aileen Harvey, Mrs. Sarah D. Wayne and Mrs. Pearle Lucado, of Pamplin;
Mrs. Marshall Cunningham, of Appomattox Elementary School;
Mrs. Lucille Ferrell, Mrs. Gertrude Kerr, Mrs. Gladys McClenny, and Mrs. Gertrude Morris, of Appomattox High School.

Dr. A. M. Keesee, Director of Instruction in Appomattox County, is taking the course, as is Mrs. L. L. Stanley, Cafeteria Head, and Mrs. Newton Jennings, a substitute teacher.

Look for Governor Stanley to take action as special session of General Assembly.

A. P. Chandler back in limelight, as wins terms of governor of Kentucky.

Be careful during hunting season.

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Superintendent's Statement

Div. Supt. J. A. Burke issued the following statement today in connection with the observance here of American Education Week:

"The education of our youth is both a duty and a privilege — a duty we should not shirk, a privilege we should embrace. The plan for a system of public education, as envisioned by our founding fathers, was based on the sound idea that our democratic form of government could not endure without it.

"There is no function of our Government, state or local, closer to our hearts than our system of public free schools. During the celebration of American Education Week let us rededicate our thinking to a continuing appraisal of the facilities we offer our boys and girls and determine in our hearts and minds that those facilities shall never be less than their reasonable needs.

"The records clearly indicate that no nation, state, county or city has ever risen or advanced beyond its system of education."

President decides against a U. S. role in arms race.